

REMARKS

Claims 13 and 14 currently remain in the application. Claims 1-12 and 15-18 have been canceled and claim 13 is herein amended.

Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Cowman in view of Matsuoka and Mahoney. In view at least in part of these cited references and the Examiner's reason for the rejection, claim 13 is herein amended by (1) incorporating the limitations of claim 15 regarding the specific resistance of the ceramic thermistor element, (2) limiting the ceramic thermistor element as comprising as principal component oxides that contain two or more metals selected from the group consisting of Mn, Ni, Co, Fe, Cu and Al, (3) limiting the ceramic material to include the oxides as a principal component, and (4) saying that the ceramic thermistor element and the ceramic material applied thereon are baked together. These additional limitations are supported by the specification (See, for example, from page 4, line 30 to page 5, line 2 and page 6 at lines 12 and 23) and hence the instant amendment should be deemed enterable.

Moreover, the amendment effected herein is believed to make the pending claims now allowable in spite of the cited references. Although Cowman discloses a high-resistance layer made of different materials with a statement regarding formation of a high-resistance layer of the same principal component as the ceramic element, this is obtained by reducing the particle diameters and there is no mention of using an additive. Although the use of different materials is mentioned, there is no teaching that the same principal components be used. Neither is there any teaching as to how such high-resistance layer with different materials should be obtained.

As for Mahoney, the material for the high-resistance layer is not a thermistor and its principal component is different. Moreover, it is after the ceramic element is baked that the paste is applied. There is no reason or motivation to consider the three cited references in combination.

It is therefore believed that the instant Amendment is sufficiently responsive to the Office Action and hence that the application is now in condition for allowance. Such action

at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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